

Interview

[Col Jeffrey Butler and 1st Lt James
McAndrew with] Col Albert C.
Trakowski, USAF (Ret)

June 29, 1994

Colonel Albert Trakowski
29 June 1994

Q: We have [concluded] independently from several other researchers the fact that MOGUL is probably responsible for the so-called Roswell incident... The Air Force position on that is that it was a misidentified balloon. The balloon was not a weather balloon, but was then a classified project, Project MOGUL, which has since been declassified.

What we have not found is any documented evidence that there was a planned cover story related to Project MOGUL. Jim has culled through literally millions of pages in various archives and repositories trying to find some sort of documented evidence where somebody at some level has stated that a cover story of weather research or weather-related activities would be used for Project MOGUL, the real purpose of which was nuclear detection...

(Pause)

A: ...All of that is to say that I know these people, and I know of what their involvement was, so I can at least give credibility and corroboration to what it was they did and where they fit in the picture.

There have been several writers who have been interested in this story, and they have been in touch with me. I have given them a lot of words, and in some cases documents that I had in my personal files. They were at first a Charles [Robert] Todd, from Ardmore, Pennsylvania, who was writing a story, and I never quite could determine whether he was on the side of the believers in UFOs or was writing to refute the believers. That I really was unsure of. One thing, he did appear to be sincere in getting the facts that surrounded the matter.

Another was a Charles Ziegler, a professor of physics at Brandeis University who was writing a monograph or perhaps a book on the history of nuclear weapons detection. It figured, of course, that Project MOGUL would come into view. So he had done a great deal of documentary searching and had found some documents that I did not have. For example, the original letter from Maurice Ewing to Carl Spaatz, then Chief of Staff of the Air Force. And some of the original letters of General Spaatz directing the establishment of Project MOGUL. All of this Charles Ziegler apparently found, and I did not have them at all.

Another fellow recently came into view, a Carl Pflock from Albuquerque, New Mexico. He appeared to want to substantiate the existence of the UFO incident as a UFO. I have a tape here, a one-sided tape, my half of the conversation only, with him. You're welcome to listen to that.

Charlie Moore has been in it since the beginning. Charlie was not a general project scientist or engineer on Project MOGUL. His efforts were confined to the development of the constant level balloons which were the instrument carriers for the devices that we hoped would pick up the sound waves operating in the sound channel in the stratosphere. The constant level balloon was the lifting mechanism, and Charlie was the principal in the development of that.

All of these things I have recorded on this tape to Mr. Pflock and also on the tapes that I made for Ruth Liebowitz, the historian at the Air Force Cambridge Research Center.

Maybe the best thing to do before plowing over all this old ground would be to consider some specific questions you may have. In the course of that, the history may come out.

Q: Were there any documents, or were there any directions either from yourself or from someone else up the chain to develop a cover story for MOGUL?

A: Not to my knowledge, no. I have never seen such a document nor have I ever heard of any effort to develop a cover story for MOGUL. The security of MOGUL was a great concern of mine from the very beginning, because it was like trying to hide an elephant in an open farmyard—almost ludicrous.

Q: Both Dr. Spilhaus and Professor Moore have indicated that they did use weather research as essentially a cover story when asked questions about what they were doing.

A: Correct. That we did. I'm aware of that. But it was not a policy. It was, if anything, a lash-up idea on the spur of the moment. And indeed, it was obvious. I may have been involved in using such a story myself, but to the best of my recollection there was no official stimulation [*sic*] or documentation of doing that. If you find such a document I, indeed, would be surprised.

Q: In the course of the research projects you worked on, in that time frame—the postwar period—would they give you a cover story on any particular project, even other than this one? Would they say, this is what you do, say this? Or would they kind of leave it to you, that it was a classified project and you just didn't discuss it and you just avoided questions?

A: The latter. I have no recollection of a cover story being used on any project that I was involved in, nor that a prefabricated cover story existed. No. I never encountered any such thing. We simply treated the security classification straight and did all we could to adhere to it.

Q: So you, as the project officer, you knew that MOGUL was a Top Secret...

A: Did I know that? There was no way to avoid it. I was the project officer, succeeding Colonel Duffy, and all that history is in the tapes that I made for Ruth Liebowitz. I came into being as the project officer on Project MOGUL about November of 1946. I had considerable background in nuclear weapons detection, using devices that I had developed in the Signal Corps. I was an Air Force officer assigned to the Signal Corps as part of Colonel Duffy's office. Much to the chagrin of the Signal Corps hierarchy, I was appointed a laboratory chief in the Signal Corps for purposes of developing instrumentation that the Air Force required, and I did that. In connection with that instrumentation, I conceived of an application of that instrumentation for use in detection of nuclear weapons. We conducted field experiments which at best were controversial, and at worst showed no positive result.

So my studies took me into the nuclear weapons problem. I had a background in physics—in nuclear physics and high-energy physics and modern physics—so I had some understanding of what was going on. I then took over the development of the original weather radar prototypes that the Air Force required in 1946. I did that in 1946. From that position, I was transferred to Colonel Duffy's new position as project officer for Project MOGUL in the Air Force, Watson Laboratories. I took up that task, I believe, around November. Those dates I think are specific in the tapes I made for Ruth Liebowitz—November of 1946. Colonel Duffy was reassigned to Wright Field, and I was the project officer. I was Top Secret control officer in addition to other duties, it being the only Top Secret project at Watson Laboratories at

the time, and probably ever. I remained project officer of Project MOGUL through our move of the laboratory from Watson Laboratories at Eatontown, New Jersey, to Cambridge, Massachusetts, and combined my laboratory, which was then known as the Geophysical Research Directorate, with that of John Marchetti's Electronics Research Directorate, and these two components made up the Air Force Cambridge Research Center.

I continued in my position of the Director of the geophysics component until May of 1949, when I was relieved of the duty at my own request and returned to school at MIT.

Q: Until '49, were you still on Project MOGUL?

A: Yes, indeed. And Project MX-968.

Q: You were on-site in New Mexico when Charlie Moore was doing most of his work, some of the early launches out of Alamogordo.

A: Yes. Jim Peoples and I went down to Alamogordo in early July 1947 to assist and observe the prototype launches being done by Charlie Moore and his crew from New York University.

Q: You said you went in July of '47, so you were there only in July. Was that early in July?

A: Yes, it was early in July. Again, I think those dates are in this tape of my conversation with Mr. Pflock. It was early in July. The Roswell incident occurred after I returned to Watson Laboratories. I wasn't involved in it at all. Really, the only thing that I knew about it, after it happened, was that Colonel Duffy called me on the telephone from Wright Field and gave me a story about a fellow that had come in from New Mexico, woke him up in the middle of the night, or some such thing, with a handful of debris, and wanted him, Colonel Duffy, to identify it.

Q: Did he identify who the person was?

A: No, I don't remember the person at all. I don't remember who came from New Mexico, no.

Q: Someone came from New Mexico with this debris?

A: Yes, I believe that's correct.

Q: They came to his quarters?

A: Yes, at Wright Field, yes. He had quarters on the base at Wright Field.

Q: Was his family there?

A: Yes.

Q: Did he identify the type of debris?

A: He just said it sure looks like some of the stuff you've been launching at Alamagordo, and he described it, and I said yes, I think it is. Certainly Colonel Duffy knew enough about radar targets, radiosondes, and balloon-borne weather devices. He was intimately familiar with all that apparatus.

Q: What was his position at Wright Field?

A: He was on the staff of General Tom Rives who was Director of the Electronic Subdivision of the Air Materiel Command, and under whose purview the Watson Laboratories was run.

Q: Why did they bring this debris to Colonel Duffy? Why didn't they bring it to someone else?

A: Probably because of questions about who knows about this project put to people at Alamagordo. I'm not sure. I can't answer that with any firm knowledge at all.

Q: So you had no idea there was an "incident" until Colonel Duffy called you, and you were back in Massachusetts at this time?

A: At that time we were at Eatontown, New Jersey. But what you said is correct. I had no knowledge of the so-called "incident" until Colonel Duffy called me.

Q: Do you recall what day you actually departed Alamagordo?

A: No. No, I don't. I have a full file of my TDY orders upstairs. Right offhand I can't tell you, but I was back in Watson Laboratories for several days before Colonel Duffy called me.

Q: Do you recall there being a Major Pritchard on-site?

A: I remember the name, yes.

Q: Did he work for you at Watson Laboratories?

A: No. He didn't work for me. I don't recall him working for me. I only had one major working for me, and I was a captain. He was a dull fellow... Right offhand I can't remember.

Q: You were the Chief of the Applied Propagation Subdivision.

A: Yes.

Q: I've seen the organizational chart, the way those things go...

A: I was.

Q: You were at the top, and then down below, as a technical adviser, below your name on the chart, is Major Pritchard.

A: Is that so? I don't remember. I simply don't remember. But if the chart says that, I'll go along with the chart.

Q: Major W. D. Pritchard. On July 10th in the Alamogordo newspaper, there's an article where it shows, it doesn't say when this was taken, but it says a Major Pritchard and his balloon group are demonstrating to reporters what these balloons and the various radar reflectors look like. Now, Charlie Moore took a look at that and said, "I don't recall there being any other balloon group in New Mexico or in that area at the same time we were there."

A: I think Charlie's right. I don't recall any either.

Q: So we were trying to figure out whether Major Pritchard was maybe a counterintelligence-type person or whether he was there reviewing the security procedures, or maybe he was there for promulgating the cover story of weather balloon and weather research so that MOGUL would not come out in the open. The article in the paper talks about the use of reflectors for tracking purposes—the radar reflectors for tracking purposes—but it never comes out talking about MOGUL and the instrumentation that you all were using for nuclear detection or the tests that were being conducted.

A: Could Major Pritchard have been attached to or some way connected with the base weather station at Alamogordo?

Q: Well, sir, we don't know, but he is identified in that newspaper article as being a public information officer. When we traced that name back to your organization, we thought he may have been essentially undercover himself. We don't know if that's the same person, even though it's the same name.

A: I'm afraid I can't offer any positive knowledge here.

Q: Were you associated with any counterintelligence people in Watson Labs or...

A: Not to my knowledge. If some were around, they were spoofing me because I didn't know it.

Q: Were there any other types of intelligence persons on your staff or the staff of Watson Laboratories?

A: Not to my knowledge.

Q: So the only people you had were actually civilian researchers...

A: And a few military officers, yes.

Q: Signal Corps and Army Air Force?

A: All the officers that I had on my staff were Air Force. I had no Signal Corps people at all.

Q: A few more names came off that news article where they're displaying the balloon launch—Maj. W. D. Pritchard, Maj. C. W. Mangum, Lieutenant Siegal, and a Capt. L. H. Dyvad.

A: None of those names are in my memory, firm in my memory, at all.

Q: You were aware of the previous Colonel Duffy's predecessor, Major Crane...

A: I never met Richard [Robert] Crane. I knew him only by the path of debris he left behind. I never met him.

Q: When you took over, was there any worry about security on the project, that security was possibly a problem, or that there was a problem or that there could be a potential problem that might warrant scrutiny by Air Force intelligence or security people?

A: We were aware of the delicacy of security on the project, and the reason was obvious. You could not conduct field operations of the size that we had to without somebody asking questions. Anybody with a pair of 8x50 binoculars on the side of the mountain could look down and see what was going on, and that, of course, would prompt questions. We were aware of all that, and we didn't really know what to do about it except to go on doing our job and taking care of things as they occurred. But we were aware of the sensitivity and of the weakness of security in Project MOGUL. Not from the people in the project, not disclosure by them, but simply the obvious activity that could be observed.

You can't fill a balloon that's give-or-take 60 feet high without somebody seeing it.

Q: When you were at Alamogordo and some of the various balloons were being launched, what was the largest array that you saw out there?

A: You mean payload?

Q: No, the entire assembly. The balloons, payloads, reflectors...

A: I didn't observe any of the reflectors, and if I did, they were so commonplace that it wouldn't have stuck in my memory. The neoprene balloons bearing reflectors were just common occurrences. I wouldn't have lodged any of those observations in memory because they were just too common.

Q: Charlie Moore has indicated that some of the balloons they tried during the early experiments were the relatively new types of reflectors that probably had never been used in New Mexico before, the M307B model, and that Ed Istvan had gone to several essentially toy manufacturers, to try to get some of these reflectors made.

A: That's correct. I don't know [about] that Ed Istvan... Ed Istvan got out of line. Charlie may have told you this, and I don't mean to tell tales about Ed, but Ed was a very...indeed, every man on Colonel Duffy's staff was very energetic. It was the Signal Corps' responsibility to procure those targets; it was not the responsibility of our and Colonel Duffy's office. However, to accelerate the activity of the Signal Corps and spur them to action, our Air Force officers in Colonel Duffy's office were literally on the backs of the Signal Corps people who did the job, and oftentimes did things they shouldn't have and

were out of channel, so to speak. It was on such an occasion that Ed Istvan acted to line up contractors for these targets. He got into a considerable amount of, shall we say, controversy with the Signal Corps because he was out of line.

Q: Do you recall any of the contractors he may have worked with?

A: No, I don't remember them by name. They were not within my purview at the time. As I have told others, including Mr. Pflock, we had an outstanding expeditor on our staff, on Colonel Duffy's staff, by the name of John E. Peterson. Jack Peterson was a major at the time. He was a prewar graduate of Harvard Business School, and he knew business operations inside and out. Again, he was an extremely energetic fellow. He was very, very valuable and successful at breaking loose stuck contracts and stuck production and things that weren't moving as fast as they should. During the war that was very important.

Jack monitored the procurement of these radar targets, and I believe Ed Istvan either worked for or alongside Jack Peterson, and I remember when they finally... Now this was all not under my purview, but I worked in the same building with them, and I knew Jack very well, he was a very good friend and we talked and joked with each other a lot. I remember so clearly when the contractor for these targets was selected, and Jack thought it was the biggest joke in the world that they had to go to a toy manufacturer to make these radar targets. Then it was even a bigger joke when it turned out that because of wartime scarcities of materials, the tape that they used to assemble these targets, the reflecting material on the balsa frames, was some kind of a pinkish purple tape with a heart and flower design on it. This was, again, a big flap.

Q: Did you ever see any of those?

A: Yeah, I saw some of them. Not in connection with my work, but they were around the office. The prototypes were around the office, and the first production runs were there.

Q: So you would say it's a limited number of a few runs maybe.

A: I have no idea how many hundreds were made, or even thousands. But like everything else that goes into production, the contractors have a limited production to begin with until they work out the bugs, and then they go full blower in the high production.

Q: Do you remember a rough span of times when you saw these: when you saw the first one, and when you saw the last?

A: It was probably 1944 or 1945. It was probably late in 1944 when the first ones were produced.

Q: Where did you see those? What part of the country?

A: Right there at Signal Corps. We were all working at that time, and John Peterson had his offices at the Toms River Signal Laboratory, which was actually located on the jurisdictional lines between Sea Girt and Springlake, New Jersey. It was an old night club that the Signal Corps had rented for the purposes of doing remote experimentation.

Q: The Sea Girt Inn?

A: Exactly. That's where John had his office, and I was there for a time doing work on developing the operational procedures of the SCR-658, the radio direction of wind— meteorological data. Rawinsonde—I did most all the work on developing how to use that instrument, and it was done there at the Sea Girt Inn.

Q: Do you recall any other physical attributes about the radar reflectors, the balsa wood? Charlie Moore indicated that the material had been coated in something like Elmer's glue which made it much more durable. Do you recall anything like that?

A: No, I don't. I didn't concern myself with that except as an observation to the side. The radar targets were geometrically elementary. There were three intersecting planes: X, Y, and Z. Their geometry was such, as you well know, that any incident wave would be reflected exactly, precisely, in the direction from which it came. So they were simple. I don't recall any of the details of how they were made, what the materials were, what coatings were used, or anything. At the time it wasn't within the range of my job.

Q: Did Colonel Duffy inform you officially? When he said he called you, was this like an official...

A: No. It was just an informative call. There wasn't any official transmission of knowledge nor expected action to result from it.

Q: Did Colonel Duffy consider this to be some sort of security violation?

A: No. Not to my knowledge, no. It was part of doing business.

Q: So he wasn't particularly upset, and he didn't require a formal explanation.

A: No.

Q: So that's the first you were aware, when he called you. None of your technicians had mentioned it to you?

A: No. Not to my knowledge.

Q: Did you have any interaction with the people at Eighth Air Force such as General Ramey or anyone else who may have been at Roswell Army Air Field?

A: No. I don't recall any interaction with them, no.

Q: What about Dr. Crary or Dr. Peoples? Do you know if they had interaction with the [Eighth Air Force] folks?

A: I don't recall any, no.

Q: At some point in Project MOGUL did you utilize equipment based at Roswell Army Air Field?

A: No, we had our own aircraft based at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Q: Did you ever have a rawinsonde receiver at Roswell?

A: Not to my memory. No. We may have, but the specifics on that, I don't recall.

Q: Can you think of any reason why Dr. Peoples would meet with one of the bomb squadron commanders at Roswell in September of 1947?

A: Probably to arrange air drops of bombs as signal sources for testing the MOGUL sound receivers. We had a fellow who was assigned to the electronics test squadron at Fort Dix by the name of Duff, Eugene Duff, an ordnance expert, and he may have been involved in arranging for bombs to be exploded in the air as sound signal sources for testing the MOGUL receivers.

Q: Did you also procure aircraft from Middletown, Pennsylvania?

A: Yes. I believe our electronic squadron was moved from Fort Dix to Middletown—to Olmstead Air Force Base. When that was, I can't exactly pinpoint, but it was probably some time in 1947. Gene Duff, our ordnance man, was a part of that group. I don't know whether Gene Duff still lives or not, but he is a name that you might look into. Eugene Duff.

Q: Has anyone asked you to explain what happened at Roswell? In your opinion, what happened?

A: Until these recent inquiries, I don't recall anyone asking me to explain. I don't recall it ever coming up for me to answer in connection with the MOGUL tests. I don't recall that. You know, things happen every day, and you treat crises from moment to moment as though they were so much cordwood. They aren't all worthy of memory. But I don't recall it.

Q: Other than our conversation here today, has anyone ever discussed with you not talking about MOGUL? It's essentially declassified—it is no longer a classified project—but has anyone in the government—the Air Force, the Army, the Department of Energy, or anyone else—ever said don't discuss this?

A: Absolutely not. No such thing.

Q: What we're trying to do is make sure we are open to the General Accounting Office and to the American public as a whole when we publish our reports. So to all the people we've discussed this with, we want to make absolutely certain that someone has not come to them and said, you're going to get in the cover story. We want this to be as open as possible and get this thing resolved once and for all. There are going to be those individuals—as you have stated, the true believers—who may not accept what we have to say, but we just want to try to get everything out in the open.

A: It's about 45 years since all of this happened. Even at the time, as I mentioned a moment ago, one gets very busy in a project of this sort, and you treat rather large events as they come; you give them action, and then you go on to the next. All of these events don't stay in memory.

Q: We understand that you've been contacted by various people such as Mr. Pflock and Mr. Todd, and we do appreciate your spending some time with us in this endeavor. We think it's very valuable for people who were actually on the scene to provide their accounts of what occurred. It is valuable to us, and we do appreciate that.

A: I wish I could be of more help on this thing. Apparently, things like this die very hard.
(Laughter)

Q: Did you ever hear of any intelligence people getting involved in this thing? Colonel Duffy mentioned that some of the people at AMC maybe wanted...

A: No, I don't. Certainly no intelligence people... Certainly I was not involved with any intelligence people in this matter. If I was, I don't recall it. Colonel Duffy and the group at Wright Field protected me greatly, I know that. They never said it, but I know they did because they left me free to do the project. And if anything would interfere with getting the project done as quickly as possible, they would try to steer that away from me. I know they did. Again, they never said it, but their actions were obvious.

(Pause)

A: ...I was assigned for about two months to AFOAT-1. Then Colonel Benjamin Holtzman, later General Holtzman, pulled me out of AFOAT-1 and sent me to Baltimore because the Air Research and Development Command had just been organized, and I arrived on the scene while they were still trying to find chairs and desks. We worked in the old *Sun* newspaper building in downtown Baltimore.

Q: They had intelligence personnel there, didn't they?

A: They may have. I'm not aware of that. Then after I left the headquarters of ARDC in Baltimore, I spent four years at the Air Force Research and Development Command Office in Brussels, Belgium. Following that, I spent more than three years on the Air Staff in the Pentagon.

Q: What year did you retire?

A: On my birthday in 1963. I then went into industry, and I worked for EG&G, a high-technology company based near Boston, and I became a Vice President of one of their subsidiaries. I became the project manager and developer of the National Space Science Data Center at Goddard, in Greenbelt, Maryland. I built that and set it up.

Then when the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, was formed in December of 1970, I was invited to join the newly formed EPA, and I did. I accepted the position. I went into the EPA as a Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Office of Research and Development. Then in 1973 and 1974 I served as Assistant Administrator for Research and Development in the EPA, the position from which I retired in 1982.

Q: Did you have interaction with Spilhaus in your civil service career?

A: No. Oh, I met with him. Spilly was a consultant, and even in his advancing age he was still an enormous source of ideas. If you brought him into a meeting as a consultant, surely somewhere along the line he would offer an idea that was useful. So he found a lot of contact throughout many organizations, particularly in those related to geophysics...meteorology, geology. I know he worked with the U.S. Geological Survey, a very, very fine organization, and with NOAA. Those are two that I know he continued relationships with. But I had very little contact with him.

Spilly was a very intimidating character. I lived with him for awhile.

Q: Were you involved in his exploits in North Africa, out there in the desert with him?

A: No. Nor in China.

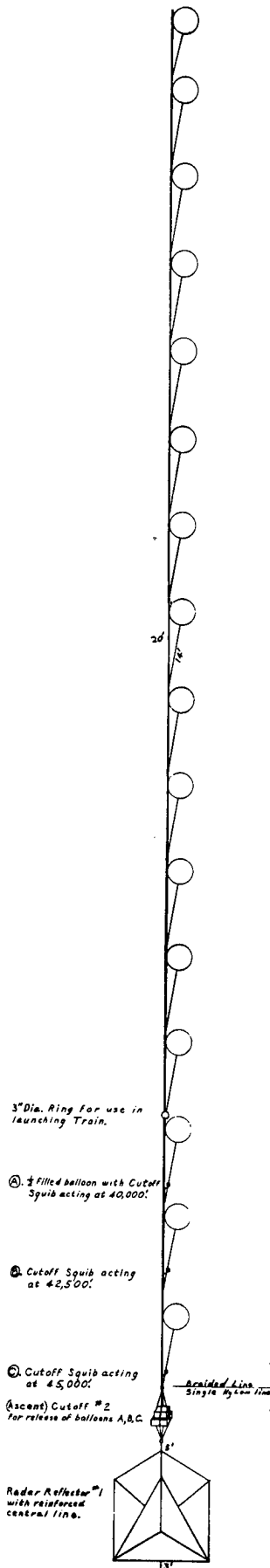
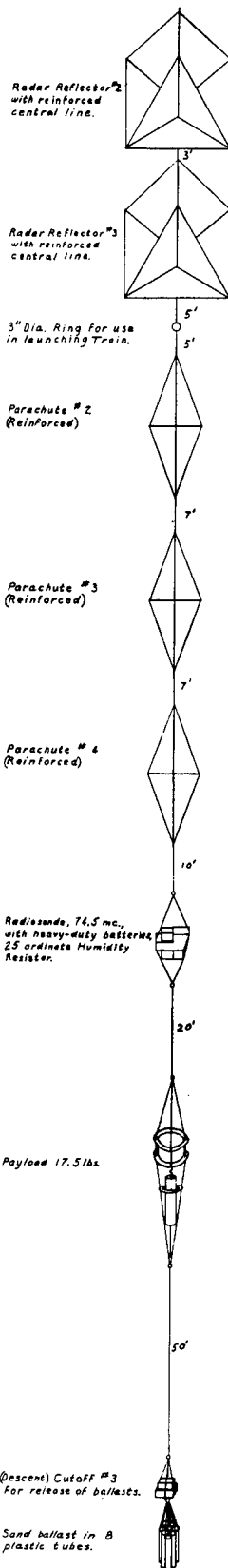
Q: He had quite some stories about some of his past exploits.

A: No matter where he went, he gathered stories.

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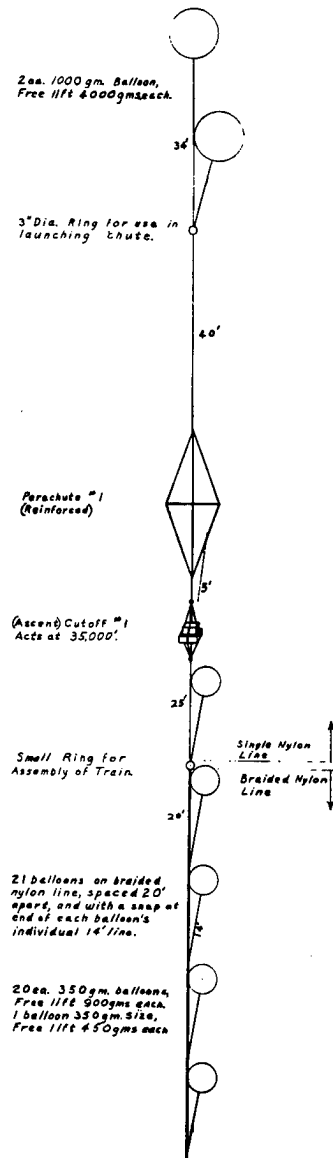
Drawing
Cluster Flight No. 2



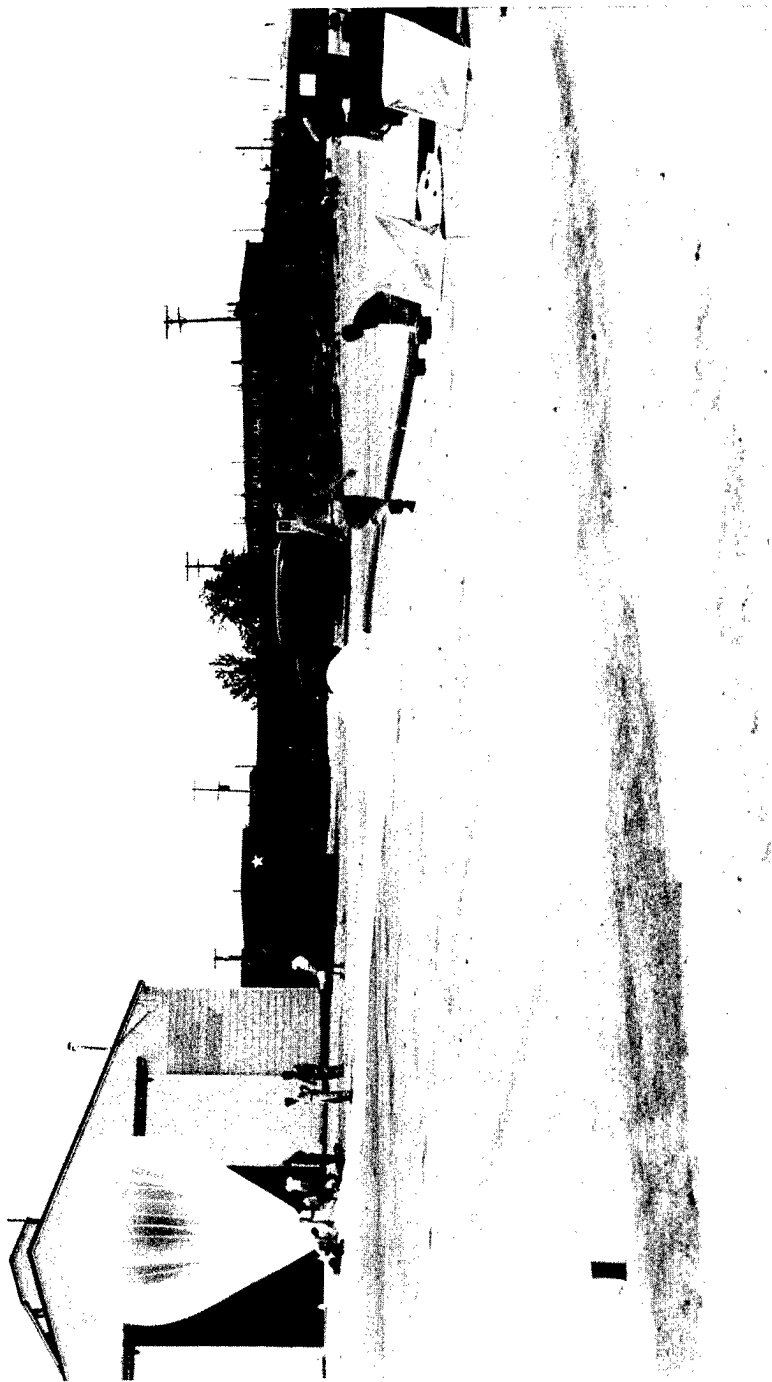
TRAIN FOR CLUSTER FLIGHT NO.2 TO BE FLOWN AT BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

SCALE: BALLOONS AND ALL LINES — 1" = 15' 0"
ALL EQUIPMENT — 1" = 2' 0"

TOP







Summary Table
NYU Constant-Level Balloon Flights
November 20, 1946–July 5, 1947

SUMMARY OF MYU CONSTANT-LEVEL BALLOON FLIGHTS

FLIGHT NUMBER	DATE AND TIME LAUNCHING	LAUNCHING OFFICE	DESCRIPTION OF BALLONS	WEIGHT OF BALLONS INCLUDING BALLAST	TOTAL WEIGHT ON BALLON INCLUDING BALLAST	DESCRIPTION OF ALTITUDE CONTROL	BALLAST WEIGHT	FRANK LEVIT	BALLON LEVIT	RADIOSONDE REGISTRATION	TRACKING	AIRCRAFT OBSERVATION	FLIGHT DURATION	Q-TIME CONSTANT	MATERIAL CONSTANT LEVELS MSL	SURVIVAL & LANDING SITE	CRITICISMS
A	30 Nov. 1947 1835 MST	NTU, N.Y.	2 - 350 gram meteorological balloons	0.7 kg	1.0 kg	None	0	Not known	Not known	80%	OK	OK	70 min.	4 min. 1000'	Max. 37000' Const. 37000'	OK	Ballon on balancing load. Free lift from 350 gram meteorological balloons. Successful landing free of lifter balloons. Ballon did not level off.
B	16 Dec. 1947 1219 MST	NTU, N.Y.	2 - 350 gram meteorological balloons	0.7 kg	1.0 kg	None	0	Not known	Not known	80%	Thodo- 111e 50%	OK	31 min.	6 min. 1000'	Max. 15000' Const. 13000'	OK	Ballon balancing load. Free lift from 350 gram meteorological balloons. Successful landing free of lifter balloons. Ballon did not level off.
1	3 April 1947 1412 MST	Bethlehem Pennsylvania	14 - 350 gram meteorological balloons. Long comic ray train	6.9 kg	13.0 kg	3 cans of ballast to be dropped on descent	6.8 kg	Not known	Not known	40% with recorder 50% without recorder	Thodo- 111e 66%	OK	115 min.	None	Max. 46000' Const.	OK	Failure due to poor rigging, poor launching technique. 2 lifter balloons, 12 main balloons. Train rose until some balloons burst then descended rapidly.
5	5 June 1947 1317 MST	Alamogordo New Mexico	29 - 350 gram meteorological balloons. Long comic ray train	10.2 kg	26.4 kg	Ballons to set off above 40000' 5 kg sand and 5 kg liquid to fall under 32000'	10.0 kg	9.9 kg	34.3 kg	10% without recorder	Thodo- 111e 90%	80%	343 min.	30 min. 2400'	Max. 58000' Const. 51000'	100% E. of Roswell N. M.	First successful flight carrying a heavy load. 3 lifter balloons, 24 main balloons.
6	7 June 1947 0509 MST	Alamogordo New Mexico	28 - 350 gram meteorological balloons. Long comic ray train	9.8 kg	26.3 kg	Ballons to set off above 40000' 5 kg sand and 5 kg liquid to fall under 32000'	10 kg	1.9 kg	30.2 kg	95% without recorder	Thodo- 111e 90%	40%	168 min.	None	Max. 72000' Const.	50%	Flight unsuccessful. Altitude control damaged on launching. 4 lifter balloons, 24 main balloons.
7	2 July 1947 0321 MST	Alamogordo New Mexico	20 - 350 gram meteorological balloons in 2 Heller clusters	7.0 kg	35.7 kg	4 over inflated balloons. 10 kg ballast shot to fall under 34000'	10 kg	10.5 kg	36.8 kg	60% without recorder	Thodo- 111e 100%	100%	413 min.	147 min. 25000'	Max. 48500' Const. 35000'	1% (1 balloon) stuck	Best flight thought possible with flabby neoprene balloons. 4 lifter balloons, 16 main balloons.
8	3 July 1947 0303 MST	Alamogordo New Mexico	10 General Mills 7" .001" polyethylene	4.6 kg	16.7 kg	Drillblair, compass fluid Pixed leak 160 gphr	3 kg	3.5 kg	20.2 kg	100% with recorder	Thodo- 111e 33% Rader - C-45 last 55%	last	195 min.	42 min. 21500'	Max. 18500' Const. 18000'	0%	First non-attainable balloon flight. Due to lack of information on volume the altitude control was not actuated. However, flight shows excellent stability of non-attainable balloons. Loss of Alt off due to balloon leakage 1600 gphr.
10	5 July 1947 0511 MST	Alamogordo New Mexico	1 M.A. Smith 15" .006" polyethylene	14.2 kg	16.3 kg	Drillblair Compass fluid	3 kg	5.6 kg	21.9 kg	51% min. with recorder	Thodo- 111e 88 min.	OK	Over 512 min.	130 min. 2800'	Max. 15100' Const. 9000'	OK	Successful flight with altitude control working. Ballon reported over Albuquerque after 11 hours; Pueblo, Colorado after 26 hours. Fluctuations in altitude from 10000' to 15000' believed due to convection currents over desert. Ballon diffusion 10 gphr.

27 MAY 94

MFR

**SUBJECT; OTHER CONTACTS ON BALLOON ACTIVITY OR AVIATION
MISHAPS THAT MAY BE RELATED TO THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT"**

The following organizations and individuals have been contacted during the period 23-27 May, concerning information on balloon activity and types of balloons being used for various purposes in New Mexico during 1947.

a) US Army Signal Corps Museum, Ft Gordon GA

Mr Ted Wise, Director, DSN 780-2818

"no actual balloons but will take a look for photographs, or descriptions, etc.
ref Mogul"

Ms Carol Stokes, Historian

b) US Army Communications and Electronics Command Museum, Ft Monmouth NJ
Ms Mindy Rosewitz, Curator, DSN 992-2440

"no examples or photos of balloons but did find a mechanical drawing (9 Jun 44) for an Air Pilot Balloon radar reflector" for which a copy was provided
Mr Richard Bingham, Command Historian, DSN 992-1675
Ms Ruth Fiornatto DSN 992-5781

c) Westinghouse Electronics History Museum, Baltimore MD

Mr Robert Dwitzbe, President

"no balloon activity or balloon-borne electronics packages in the 1940's;
Westinghouse became involved in balloon "TCOM" and dirigibles in the 50's and 60's; we have no reference to Project MOGUL"

Ms Betsy xxxxxxxxxx

d) Sperry Hagley Museum

Ms Gail Dietzyk, Curator, (304) 658-2400 ext 330

no contact as of 31 May--no information as to the manufacturer of the instrument packages associated with MOGUL

e) AF/SE

Lt Col Lineberger, 3-7280

AAZ requested information related to B-29 and/or B-50 accidents in New Mexico in 1947 and 1948--response: B-29 crashed on T/O from Albuquerque in Jan 1947 and a B-29 crashed on T/O from Walker AAF (Roswell) in Aug 1948; both had multiple fatalities; no refueling mishaps between B-29 and B-50 in 1947/48

On 26 May AAZ requested information on all B-29 mishaps in the "New Mexico" area (ie, NM and surrounding states) for the period 1947-50; information to include specific date, crash location and number of fatalities: Lt Col Lineberger said they were on microfilm, that all mishaps were filed chronologically and that there were 7,000 mishap files; a manual review will take at least 60 days; I requested an update in two weeks and a followup after the first year's entries had been reviewed

f) Smithsonian Air and Space Museum 20 May 94

Mr Tom Crouch, Aeronautics Curator, (202) 357-2515/3133

"no examples of 1947 vintage balloons; have photographs but are taken at such a distance that no details of the balloon construction are evident; recommend

contacting Mr James Rand (Jim) of Winzen Balloons, Sioux Falls, SD; Jim Rand is the President and his office is at 12061 Network Blvd, Suite 200, San Antonio TX 78249 (512) 690-3400

Requested Lt Col Hachida at AIA to attempt to contact Mr Rand and determine if he had any information relative to the construction of these early balloons

g) Center for Military History, 14th St NW Washington DC

Dr Bennett, Curator

Dr Drea

Ms Hannah Zeidlik, Archivist (202) 504-5416

"no records of Project Mogul; recommend checking with DOE historian or the US Army Military Institute"

h) Dr Benjamin Cooling, DOE Historian (301) 903-5431

Dr Marie Hallion (202) 586-5238 @ Forrestal Bldg

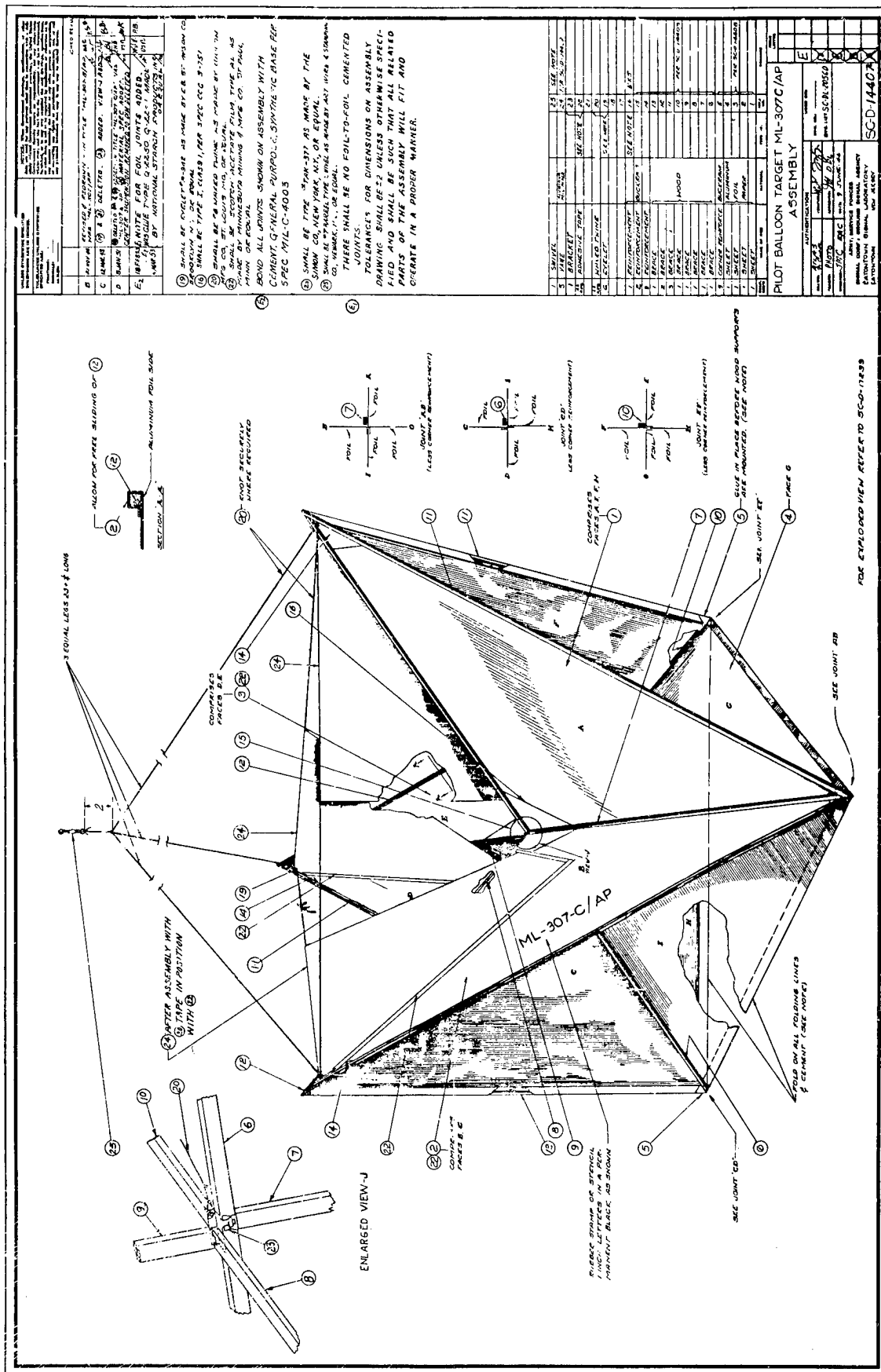
"the AEC collection from the 1947-late 50's era has been transferred to NARA; might check the 'Military Liaison Committee' (MLC), the military organization associated with AEC during that time; recommend discussing this with the AEC POC at NARA, Mr Jimmy Rush (301) 713-7250; check to see if there are any references to AEC people/correspondence with the MLC

i) US Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks PA

Mr John Slonaker, Librarian DSN 242-3611

Jeffrey Butler, Col, USAF

Blueprint
Corner Reflector of the ML-307C/AP
Assembly



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Statement
Irving Newton
July 21, 1994

STATEMENT OF SUSPECT/WITNESS/COMPLAINANT <small>(THIS FORM IS SUBJECT TO THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 - SEE REVERSE)</small>				SUSPECT
				XX WITNESS/COMPLAINANT
SECTION I. STATEMENT INFORMATION				
DATE	TIME	LOCATION (Bldg/Room No.) AND INSTALLATION	UNIT TAKING STATEMENT	REPEAT (If Known)
21 Jul 94	1630	AFOSI Detachment 401 Randolph AFB TX	AFOSI Detachment 409	OFFENSE
				COMPLAINT
SECTION II. PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION (Print or Type)				
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		SSN		STATUS/GRADE
NEWTON, IRVING				USAF(RET) O-4
LOCAL ADDRESS (Include Zip Code)		DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH (If Required)		TELEPHONE HOME
				DUTY:
PERMANENT ADDRESS OR HOME OF RECORD (Include Zip Code)		MILITARY ORGANIZATION/EMPLOYER		DEROS
Same as Above		USAF Retired		N/A
SPONSOR INFORMATION (Name, Grade, SSN, Organization, Duty Phone)				
N/A				
SECTION III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFENSES AND 5TH AMENDMENT/ARTICLE 31 RIGHTS ADVISEMENT (Suspect Only)				
<p>1. I have been advised that I am suspected of the following offenses: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>by _____ (Rank and Full Name) who identified himself/herself as a _____</p> <p>(SP, special agent, etc.) and advised me that I have the following rights according to the 5th Amendment of the US Constitution/Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (suspect initials on line next to each statement).</p> <p>_____ a. I have the right to remain silent - that is to say nothing at all.</p> <p>_____ b. Any statement I make, oral or written, may be used as evidence against me in a trial or in other judicial, non-judicial, or administrative proceedings.</p> <p>_____ c. I have the right to consult with a lawyer.</p> <p>_____ d. I have the right to have a lawyer present during this interview.</p> <p>_____ e. I may obtain a civilian lawyer of my own choice at no expense to the government.</p> <p>_____ f. I may request a lawyer any time during this interview.</p> <p>_____ g. If I decide to answer questions with or without a lawyer present, I may stop the questioning at any time.</p> <p>_____ h. MILITARY ONLY: If I want a military lawyer, one will be appointed for me free of charge.</p> <p>_____ i. CIVILIANS ONLY: If I cannot afford a lawyer and want one, a lawyer will be appointed for me by civilian authorities.</p> <p>2. I have read my rights as listed above and I fully understand my rights. No promises, threats, or inducements of any kind have been made to me. No pressure or coercion has been used against me. I make the following choice (suspect initials on line next to appropriate statement):</p> <p>_____ a. I do not want a lawyer. I am willing to answer questions or make a statement or both, about the offense(s) under investigation.</p> <p>_____ b. I do not want a lawyer and I do not wish to make a statement or answer any questions.</p> <p>_____ c. I want a lawyer. I will not make any statement or answer any questions until I talk to a lawyer.</p> <p>3. I fully understand my rights and that my signature alone does not constitute an admission of guilt.</p>				
_____ (Signature of Suspect)		_____ (Signature of Witness/Interviewer)		

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 8013, 44 U.S.C. 3101, and EO 9397

PRINCIPAL PURPOSES: Used to record information and details of criminal activity which may require investigative action by commanders, supervisor, security police, AFOSI special agents, etc. Used to provide information to the appropriate individuals within DOD organizations who ensure that proper legal and administrative action is taken

ROUTINE USES: Information may be disclosed to local, county, state and federal law enforcement or investigatory authorities for investigation and possible criminal prosecution or civil court action. Information extracted from this form may be used in other related criminal and/or civil proceedings

DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY: SSN is used to positively identify the individual making the statement and as a conduit to check past criminal activity records

SECTION IV. STATEMENT

THIS PAGE USED FOR SIGNATURE ONLY. TEXT OF STATEMENT BEGINS ON PAGE 3

[Handwritten signature]

SECTION V. SIGNATURE/OATH

"I hereby voluntarily and of my own free will make this statement without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence, or unlawful inducement. I swear (or affirm) I have read this statement, initialed all pages and corrections, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

[Handwritten signature]
(Signature of Person Making Statement)

[Handwritten signature]
(Signature of Witness/Interviewer)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 21st day of July 19 94

[Handwritten signature]
(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

SECTION VI. INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTINUATION PAGE(S)

Use plain bond paper (both sides optional). At the top right of each page, print or type: "(Last Name of Individual making the Statement) on (Date)." At the bottom of each page, print or type: "Page ___ of ___ Pages". The individual must initial the top and bottom entries and sign his/her name at the bottom of each page.

[Handwritten initials]

Ln I was asked to provide this statement, by Lt. Col. Joseph V. Rogan who advised me, he was assisting in an investigation at the behest of the Secretary of the Air Force, for the GAO, to look into facts concerning what has become to be known as "The Roswell Incident". *Ln*

Ln As I recall it was July 1947, I was then a Warrant Officer with seven years service. I was the only weather forecaster on duty in the Fort Worth base weather and flight service center. The base weather covered only the base the flight service center covered most of the southwest states. I received a call from some one in General Ramey's office who asked that I go to the General's office. I informed him that I was the only forecaster on duty and could not leave. Several minutes later General Ramey Himself called and said "get your ass over here if you don't have a car take the first one with a key". *Ln*

Ln I was met at the General's office by a Lt Col or Col who told me that some one had found a flying saucer in New Mexico and they had it in the General's Office. And that a flight had been set up to send it to Wright Patterson AFB OH., but the General suspicioned that it might be meteorological equipment or something of that nature and wanted it examined by qualified meteorological personnel.

The Col and I walked into the General's office where this supposed flying saucer was lying all over the floor. As soon as I saw it, I giggled and asked if that was the flying saucer. I was told it was. *Ln*

Ln Several people were in the room when I went in, among them, General Ramey, a couple of press people, a Major, I learned to be Major Marcel and some other folks. Someone introduced Major Marcel as the person who found this material.

I told them that this was a balloon and a RAWIN target. I believed this because I had seen many of these before. They were normally launched by a special crew and followed by a ground radar unit. They provided a higher altitude winds aloft. We did not use them at Fort Worth. However, I was familiar with them because we used them and their products on various projects in which I was involved. These were used mostly on special projects and overseas. The balloon was made out of a rubber type expandable material and when launched was about six to eight feet across. When the balloons got to altitude they expanded to twenty feet or more. The target was used for radar reflections and I believe each leg of the target was approximately 48 inches. It resembled a child's Jack (like a child's ball and jacks set) with a metallic material between the legs. The legs were made of material appearing to be like balsa wood kite sticks but much tougher. *Ln*

Ln While I was examining the debris, Major Marcel was picking up pieces of the target sticks and trying to convince me that some notations on the sticks were alien writings. There were figures on the sticks lavender or pink in color, appeared to be weather faded markings, with no rhyme or reason. He did not convince me these were alien writings. *Ln*

Ln I was convinced at the time that this was a balloon with a RAWIN target and remain convinced. *Ln*

Ln I remember hearing the General tell someone to cancel the flight the flight to Wright Patterson. *Ln*

Ln While in the office several pictures were taken of Major Marcel, General Ramey, myself and others. *Ln*

Ln I was dismissed and went to my office to resume my normal duties. *Ln*

Ln During the ensuing years I have been interviewed by many authors, I have been quoted and misquoted. The facts remain as indicated above. I was not influenced during the original interview, nor today, to provide anything but what I know to be true, that is, the material I saw in General Ramey's office was the remains of a balloon and a RAWIN target. *Ln*

Ln